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Twenty-one bird species new or little known from the Republic of Colombia

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Received 25 June 1982

In reviewing and organizing recent accessions to the bird collection at the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Chicago, we have encountered a number of specimens of birds previously unknown or poorly known from the Republic of Colombia. Most of these are specimens taken (1969-1971) by Kjell von Sneidern in the Andes of extreme southern Colombia, near the border between Putumayo and Narino, an area that until recently had not been studied by ornithologists. Mr von Sneidern's collection comes principally from 5 localities that will be mentioned repeatedly in the species accounts to follow. All are in humid forest, varying from upper montane cloud forest (La Victoria) down in elevation through the upper tropical zone (Estacion Bombeo de Guamuez; Llorente) to lowland tropical forest (San Antonio Guamuez). The entire collection contains 2344 specimens and 358 species. Here, we report only the specimens that present substantially new information about bird faunas and distributions in southern Colombia. One additional species new to the republic, *Odontophorus melanotus*, is reported from a collection made by M. A. Carriker, Jr.

The 5 von Sneidern localities are as follows (coordinates from Paynter Traylor 1981):

San Antonio Guamuez, Putumayo, elev. 400 m, about 0° 31' N, 76° 45' W; above the town of San Antonio, on the Rio Guamuez; dates in Paynter & Traylor (1981) should read Oct-Nov, 1969 and March-April 1971.

Estacion Bombeo de Guamuez, Putumayo, elev. 3000 ft (900 m), about 0° 40' N,

77° 00' W; a pump station above San Antonio; dates in Paynter & Traylor (1981) should read Feb-April 1971.

El Carmen, Narino/Putumayo border, elev. 5000 ft (1500 m), about 0° 40' N, 77° 10' W.

Llorente, Narino, elev. 1500-3200 m, about 0° 49' N, 77° 15' W; date in Paynter & Traylor should read June 1970, not 1974.

La Victoria, Narino, elev. 2800-3200 m, about 0° 35' N, 77° 10' W; very near the Ecuador border.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Odontophorus melanotus Dark-backed Wood-Quail

♂ (Conover #19577) from Ricaurte, Narino, elev. 1500 m, collected 27 June 1957 by M. A. Carriker, Jr. This western slope endemic previously was known only from Ecuador, making this the first recorded occurrence in Colombia.

Leptosittaca branickii Golden-plumed Parrot

4 ♀♀ (#287973-287976), 2 ♂♂ (#287971-2), all from Llorente (1800 m), collected 30 June and 1 July 1970. This rare, possibly endangered, parrot had been known from the central and eastern Andes of Colombia from Caldas south to Cauca. These specimens suggest that it probably occurs in the intervening, mid-montane forest elevations south through southern Ecuador (Taraguacocha) to Peru (Maraynioc).

Aegolius harrisi Buff-fronted Owl

♂ (#287982) from Llorente (1860 m), collected 3 June 1970. This rare owl is known from only a handful of specimens scattered throughout the northern and central Andes. From Colombia it was previously known positively only from Bogota trade skins, and from 2 previously unpublished specimens in the FMNH from El Tambo, Cauca (♂ #102112, ♀ #102225, both collected by K. von Sneidern at 1560 m on 5 November 1939 and 24 May 1940, respectively).

Nyctibius leucopterus maculosus White-winged Potoo

1 ♂ (#287983) from Llorente (1800 m) collected 29 June 1970. This species is extremely rare in collections, although it is known from the Andean regions of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. In Colombia the only positive records appear to be specimens from Norte de Santander, on the west side of the eastern Andes, and "Bogota" trade skins. The present specimen indicates that the species inhabits the moist, mid-montane cloud forest zone of the eastern Andes. This, combined with its nocturnal habits, may explain the species' unusual scarcity in collections.

Urosticte ruficrissa Rufous-vented Whitetip

2 ♂♂ (#310998, 310999), 5 ♀♀ (#311000-311004) from El Carmen (5000 ft), collected 27 November-9 December 1970. We agree with Brown & Hilty (in press) in following Meyer de Schauensee's (1964) earlier treatment of *ruficrissa* as specifically distinct from *benjamini*. The present specimens indicate a continuous distribution along the eastern slopes from Huila south to northeastern Ecuador.

Phlogophilus hemileucurus Ecuadorian Piedtail

2 ♂♂ (#310935, 310937), 1 ♀ (#310936) from Estacion Bombeo Guamuez (3000 ft), collected 14 March and 6 April 1971. These are the first specimens from Colombia of this hummingbird, a species still rare in collections. Our experience with its equally poorly known congener *harterti* in southern Peru suggests that it may actually be rather common locally, but only in an extremely narrow elevational zone in upper tropical forest (900–1200 m for *harterti*).

Polyplancta aurescens Gould's Jewelfront

1 ♂ (#286870), 3 ♀♀ (#286867–286869) from San Antonio Guamuez (400 m), collected between 3 and 25 October 1969. In Colombia this species had been recorded only in eastern Vaupes, although it was known from Limoncocha, Ecuador. The present specimens confirm that it occurs throughout the Amazonian forest section of Colombia.

Heliodoxa gularis Pink-throated Brilliant

16 specimens; 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ from San Antonio Guamuez (400 m), collected 11–25 October 1969; 2 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ from Estacion Bombeo Guamuez (3000 ft), collected 14 and 16 March 1971. These represent the first documented record in Colombia. A previous record at Leticia is almost certainly erroneous, as the species is known in Ecuador and northern Peru only from the foothills along the base of the Andes. The same is true for its allospecies, *branickii*, in southern Peru.

Heliodoxa s. schreibersii Black-throated Brilliant

13 specimens; 4 ♂♂ (#286872–286875) collected 11 October–4 November 1969 at San Antonio Guamuez; 1 ♀ (#293220) collected 31 March 1971 from San Antonio Guamuez; 4 ♂♂ and 4 ♀♀ (#292773–292780) collected 13 March–6 April 1971 from Estacion Bombeo Guamuez at 3000 ft. These represent the first specimens from Colombia, although the species is known from surrounding areas in Ecuador, Peru and Brazil.

Opisthoprora euryptera Mountain Avocetbill

3 ♂♂ (#288063–288065) from Llorente (3200 m) collected 27 May–1 June 1970. These records fill a 300 km hiatus in the known range of this rare hummingbird, between Cauca to the north and Papallacta, Ecuador to the south.

Galbula pastazae Coppery-chested Jacamar

2 ♂♂ (#311005, 311008), 2 ♀♀ (#311006, 311007) from El Carmen (5000 ft), collected 2–9 December 1970. These represent the first Colombian record of this little known jacamar, previously considered endemic to the upper cloud forests of central and northern Ecuador.

Deconychura stictolaema secunda Spot-throated Woodcreeper

2 ♂♂ (#286982, 286983), 1 ♀♀ (#310443) from San Antonio Guamuez (400 m), collected 16–23 October 1969. These are the first Colombian records of this species, although it had been known from surrounding localities in Brazil, Peru and Ecuador. Probably it occurs throughout the lowland forest

of southeastern Colombia. Noteworthy is the extremely small size of the presumed female compared to the known males (wing length (♀) 77.0 mm, (♂♂) 89.0, 92.5 mm), a pattern of dimorphism also noted by Zimmer (1929).

Sclerurus rufigularis fulvigularis Short-billed Leafscraeper

2 ♀♀ (#292937, 287068) from Estacion Bombeo Guamuez (3000 ft), collected 11 October 1969 and 16 March 1971, respectively. Previous Colombian records of this leafscraeper were limited to the Macarena mountains, c. 150 km to the north. The present records confirm that it also occurs at the base of the main eastern Andean slopes in Colombia.

Rhegmatorhina m. melanosticta Hairy-crested Antbird

1 ♂ (#287186), 1 ♀ (#287187) from San Antonio Guamuez (400m), collected 3 November and 30 October 1969 respectively. These are the first specimens from Colombia. Willis (1969) reports sight records at Puerto Umbria, Putumayo, 45 km north of San Antonio. On the basis of records in nearby Ecuador, Peru and Brazil, the species presumably occurs throughout the lowland forests of southeastern Colombia.

Myrmornis torquata torquata Wing-banded Antbird

2 ♂♂ (#292840, 292841), 1 ♀ (#292842) from Estacion Bombeo Guamuez (3000 ft), collected 15-17 March 1971. This species has a peculiarly patchy distribution throughout its rather extensive range, with a population in the foothills of northwestern Colombia and adjacent Panama, but is apparently absent through most of the eastern Colombian foothills and lowlands. Specimens of the present subspecies have been taken at La Morelia, Caqueta, and in adjacent Ecuador, and with those reported here confirm that a single, continuous population exists through the foothills of southern Colombia.

Phylloscartes orbitalis Spectacled Bristle-tyrant

4 ♂♂ (#295919, 295921-295923), 1 ♀ (#295920) from Estacion Bombeo Guamuez (3000 ft), collected 14-16 March 1971. These specimens represent the first records of the species from Colombia and are the basis for the Colombian record alluded to in Peters' Checklist (Traylor 1979). The species is known from scattered localities in Peru and Bolivia and one locality in the foothills of Ecuador. Probably its distribution is more or less continuous within an extremely narrow elevational zone, a pattern typical of other members of the enlarged genus *Phylloscartes* (including "*Pogonotriccus*").

Ramphotricon fuscicauda Dusky-tailed Flatbill

1 ♂ (#287395) from San Antonio Guamuez (400 m), collected 30 October 1969. Until recently, this species was known from only a few specimens (Meyer de Schauensee 1966). It has been found commonly in southeastern Peru (Terborgh *et al.* in press), and is known from 2 localities in eastern Ecuador. This specimen is the first record from Colombia, and provides the reference mentioned in Peters' Checklist (Traylor 1979).

Notiochelidon flavipes Pale-footed Swallow

1 ♂ (#292251) from La Victoria (2000 m), collected 23 May 1970. This extremely rare swallow now is known from several localities in the eastern

Andes of Peru and from this single record from the eastern slopes in southern Colombia, besides the 3 records listed by Meyer de Schauensee (1966). Clearly it is a species confined to humid, upper cloud forest, where it is difficult to collect. Almost certainly its actual distribution is more continuous through the eastern Andes than current records suggest.

Turdus lawrencii Lawrence's Thrush

1 ♂ (#287485), 1 ♀ (#287484) from San Antonio Guamuez (400 m), both collected on 11 October 1969. Recently, a specimen was reported from near Leticia by Morales (*vide* W. L. Brown). Ours are the only other specimens from Colombia. Brown & Hilty (in press) report several other sight records from southeastern Colombia. The species clearly occurs throughout the lowland Amazon basin of the country.

Diglossa glauca tyrianthina Deep-blue Flower-piercer

4 ♂♂ (#292721, 725, 726, 727), 3 ♀♀ (#292722-292724) from El Carmen (5000 ft), collected 29 November-15 December 1970. The only previous Colombian specimens of this locally distributed species are from Cerro Pax, c. 50 km south of El Carmen. Brown & Hilty (in press) report a sight record from above Florencia, Caqueta.

Atlapetes leucopis White-rimmed Brush-finch

4 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ from 2 localities: 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (#292466-468, 292473) from La Victoria (2800 m), collected 21-23 May 1970; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (#292469-292472) from Llorente (3200 m), collected 1-29 June 1970. Previous records exist from Cerro Pax, only c. 30 km south of La Victoria, but the present records are the first to confirm that the species occurs up nearly to the limit of trees. It is extremely poorly represented in collections, but the fact that 2 pairs were collected within a few days at Llorente suggests that it may be more common locally than museum records would indicate.

Remarks

Of the 21 species reported here, 7 represent the first records for Colombia (*Odontophorus melanotus*, *Phlogophilus hemileucurus*, *Heliodoxa gularis*, *Galbula pastazae*, *Deconychura stictolaema*, *Phylloscartes orbitalis*, and *Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*) and 2 in addition represent the first specimen records (*Heliodoxa schreibersii* and *Rhynchogatorhina melanosticta*). Of the remaining 12, 8 are little known cloud forest forms and 4 are lowland species. In all cases these records either fill in large gaps in the previously documented distributions, or they represent significant extensions of the known ranges.

Acknowledgments. We gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance of William L. Brown in providing us with unpublished information and maps for many of the species treated here. Our records have been incorporated into the Colombian guide recently completed by Brown & Hilty (in press). We thank our mentors and friends Emmet R. Blake and Melvin A. Traylor, Jr, who were instrumental in suggesting this region of Colombia to Mr. von Sneider and in obtaining the collection once it was made.

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Books Received

Arlott, N. 1982. *Bird Paintings*. 28 colour plates. World's Work Ltd. (Heinemann): London. £12.50.

Norman Arlott is well known as an illustrator and designer of bird portraits. He has 28 examples of his work beautifully presented here, without text. They are brightly, perhaps almost too brightly, coloured portraits of a selection from his more favourite bird Families in Europe, Africa and the U.S.A. Each picture is bordered as if on a mount and the bird's name is printed on the back—each portrait, it seems, ready for instant removal, framing and hanging. The White-throated Bee-eater and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet have particularly effective backgrounds, while the Bullfinch is tactfully shown feeding only on ivy berries.

Tomkies, M. 1982. *Golden Eagle Years*. Pp. 202. Extensively illustrated in black-and-white and colour. Several short appendices and a bibliography. Heinemann: London £9.95

The author, who has written before quite extensively on wildlife in Canada and Scotland, often following lonely and prolonged study in wild isolation, turned his undivided attention to the Golden Eagle 8 years ago and it is astonishing to learn, though perhaps not surprising, that he covered 1500 miles on foot alone and located 28 eyries in a 300 sq. mile area of the Western Highlands, concentrating particularly on the life histories of 5 separate pairs. Every precaution to disguise all aspects of localities has been taken, even to fictionalising helpers' names, in order to prevent divulging critical directions to egg and chick thieves. The style is popular narrative, with many graphic, almost poetic, passages, but including as well many factual data and some personal theories, gathered during the author's dedicated searches for and observations and photography of eagles, several of which he was able regularly to recognise and name as individuals.

The clarity of the original photographs one must presume were surely better than presented here in black-and-white, since almost all disappointingly lack good definition. The many fewer colour photographs are mostly handsome and enjoyable.